

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) Method of printing on a press,  
providing a printing run length of said press to be  
increased with a factor of at least 5 versus a reference  
run length, making use therefore of a lithographic printing  
plate, said method comprising the steps of:
- image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive  
imaging element, said element being optionally present on  
the press before starting said image-wise exposing step to  
infrared light, wherein said element comprises, on a  
lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface thereupon, an  
image-forming layer including hydrophobic thermoplastic  
polymer particles and a hydrophilic polymer binder, and,  
optionally, an infrared absorbing compound, wherein said  
hydrophobic polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of  
nitrogen and have an average particle size diameter in the  
range from 0.015 to 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ , ~~being a range wherein said  
increased run length is provided for the same reduction of  
same average particle size diameters of said hydrophobic  
polymer particles and of reference hydrophobic polymer  
particles providing said reference run length and wherein~~

said reference run length utilizes reference particles are containing no or less than 0.1 wt % of nitrogen,  
- developing the image-wise exposed imaging element by mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press and applying an aqueous dampening liquid ~~and/or~~ ink to said imaging element while rotating said print cylinder, starting printing up to said increased run length.

2. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein said hydrophobic polymer particles ~~containing~~ contain structural chemical groups selected from the group consisting of amide, urethane, methacrylonitrile, crotonitrile, vinylidene cyanide, isocytosine, pyrrolidone, piperazine, cyanomethyl, cyanoethyl, cyanopropyl, cyanoaryl, cyanoacrylate, primary amines, mono- or di- n-alkyl substituted amines, urea, imide, imine, triazine, sulfonamide, onium, melamine, pyrimidine, ureido-pyrimidone, pyridine, barbiturate, isocyanurate or imidazole.

3. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein  
said hydrophilic polymer binder is a water-soluble, water-  
dispersable, alkali-dispersable or alkali-soluble polymer.
4. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein  
the hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles consist of  
a ~~homopolymer or~~ copolymer of monomers selected from the  
group consisting of styrene, tert.-butylstyrene,  
methylmethacrylate, peramethylstyrene, methacrylonitrile,  
N-alkyl substituted acrylamides, N-alkyl substituted  
methacrylamides and maleimides.
5. (currently amended) Method according to claim 1, wherein  
the hydrophobic ~~thermoplastic~~ thermoplastic polymer  
particles are present in the image forming layer in an  
amount of at least 50 wt%.
6. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, further  
comprising a second hydrophilic polymer binder in a layer  
adjacent to said image forming layer.

7. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorbing compound is an anionic infrared cyanine dye absorbing infrared radiation in the wavelength range from 800 to 1100 nm and wherein the infrared absorbing compound is present in said image forming layer or in a layer adjacent thereto.
8. (previously presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophilic surface is a lithographic surface, present on a metal support, being a plate or a print cylinder.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Canceled)
12. (currently amended) Method of printing on a press, said method comprising the steps of:
- image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive lithographic printing plate, wherein said lithographic printing plate comprises:
- a lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface thereupon, an image-forming layer including hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles and a

hydrophilic polymer binder, and, an infrared absorbing compound, wherein said hydrophobic polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of nitrogen and have an average particle size diameter in the range from 0.015 to 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$ , developing the image-wise exposed printing plate by mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press and applying an aqueous dampening liquid ink to said imaging element while rotating said print cylinder, and printing.

13. (previously presented)      The method of claim 12 wherein said lithographic printing plate is present on said press prior to said image-wise exposing.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16.(currently amended) Method of printing on a press, said  
method comprising the steps of:  
image-wise exposing to infrared light a heat sensitive  
lithographic printing plate, wherein said lithographic  
printing plate comprises:  
a lithographic base with a hydrophilic surface  
thereupon, an image-forming layer including  
hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles and a  
hydrophilic polymer binder, and, an infrared  
absorbing compound, wherein said hydrophobic  
polymer particles contain more than 0.1 wt % of  
nitrogen and have an average particle size  
diameter in the range from 0.015 to 0.15  $\mu$ m,  
developing the image-wise exposed imaging element by  
mounting it on a print cylinder of a printing press  
and applying an aqueous ink to said imaging element  
while rotating said print cylinder, and  
printing;  
with the proviso that said printing is at least 5 times longer  
than printing when said hydrophobic polymer particles  
contain less than 0.1 wt% nitrogen and have an average

particle diameter more than 0.15  $\mu\text{m}$  ~~The method of claim 15~~  
wherein said lithographic printing plate is present on said  
press prior to said image-wise exposing.

17. (canceled)